

6/24/94
1. (Twice Amended) A storing apparatus for use with a computer-based system in which a first user can protect access to information recorded on a medium with a password, and can selectively permit said first user and a second user to access the information without the password, comprising:

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a password preserving unit for preserving a general access password and the password; and

a password verifying unit for allowing access if the password is entered, and if the password is not entered, comparing the general access password with the password, allowing access if the general access password is the password, and denying access if the general access password is not the password.

18. (Amended) A method of protecting access to information recorded on a medium with a password for use with a computer-based system, comprising:

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a password preserving step of preserving the password and a general access password; and

a password verifying step of controlling the access protection by comparing a user input password input by a user with the password when there is the user input password, allowing access if the user input password is the password, and denying access if the user input password is not the password, and for controlling access protection by comparing said general access password substituted for said user input password with the password when there is no user input password, allowing access if said general access